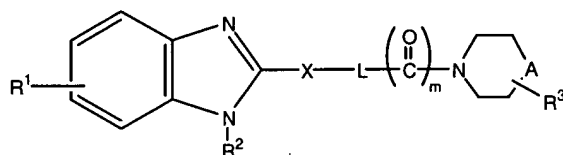


## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (previously presented): A benzimidazole compound represented by the following formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group; R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group; R<sup>3</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the ring containing the nitrogen atom and A; A represents CH<sub>2</sub>, or CH which forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom; L represents a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> wherein n represents 1 or 2; X represents O, S or methylene group; and m represents 0 or 1.

2. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, wherein X is O or S.

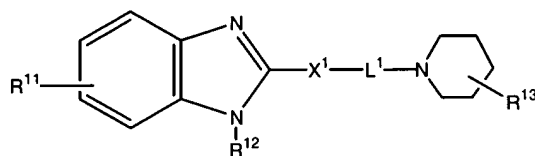
3. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~Claim~~claim 1 or 2, wherein m is 0.

4. (previously presented): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom.

5. (previously presented): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein L is a  $C_4$ - $C_8$  alkylene group.

6. (previously presented): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein L is a  $C_5$  or  $C_6$  alkylene group.

7. (currently amended): A benzimidazole compound represented by the following formula (II) or a salt thereof:



wherein,  $R^{11}$  represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group;  $R^{12}$  represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group;  $R^{13}$  represents one or more functional groups on the piperidine ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, a phenyl group which may be substituted, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, an amino group, a cyano group, a carbamoyl group and an alkoxycarbonyl group;  $L^1$  represents a  $C_4$ - $C_8$  alkylene group; and  $X^1$  represents O, S, or methylene group.

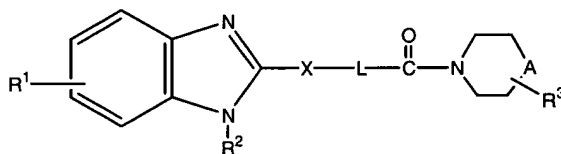
8. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~Claim~~claim 7, wherein  $L^1$  is a  $C_4$ - $C_8$  alkylene group.

9. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~Claim~~claim 7 or 8, wherein  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  represent hydrogen atom.

10. (previously presented): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 7, wherein  $R^{13}$  is a functional group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, a phenyl group which may be substituted, a hydroxy group, and a cyano group.

11. (previously presented): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 7, wherein  $L^1$  is a  $C_5$  or  $C_6$  alkylene group.

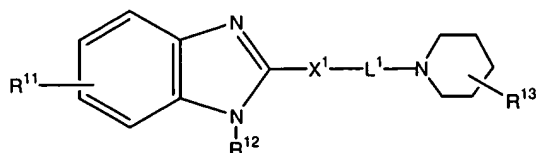
12. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound represented by the following formula (I)



wherein,  $R^1$  represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group;  $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group;  $R^3$  represents one or more functional groups on the ring containing the nitrogen atom and  $A$ ;  $A$  represents  $CH_2$ , or  $CH$  which forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom;  $L$  represents a  $C_4$ - $C_8$  alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by  $(CH_2CH_2O)_nCH_2CH_2$  wherein  $n$  represents 1 or 2;  $X$  represents  $O$ ,  $S$  or methylene group; and  $m$  represents 0 or 1, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutical additive.

13-20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound represented by the following formula (II)



wherein, R<sup>11</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group; R<sup>12</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group; R<sup>13</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the piperidine ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, a phenyl group which may be substituted, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, an amino group, a cyano group, a carbamoyl group and an alkoxycarbonyl group; L<sup>1</sup> represents a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkylene group; and ~~X~~X<sup>1</sup> represents O, S, or methylene group, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutical additive.